



BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, FOR THE YEAR 1923.

To the Mayor and Members of the Chippenham Corporation :—

Report.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure of presenting my Annual Report. The Report is compiled upon the lines indicated in the Memorandum, memo. 269, circular 168, issued by the Ministry of Health.

General Statistics.

The Urban District of Chippenham extends to an area of 11,960 acres, and has a population of 7,874.

The number of inhabited houses is 1,900.

The number of families or separate occupiers, 2,000.

The rateable value is £45,450. Sum represented by a penny rate £175.

Vital Statistics (extracts from)

Total deaths—male 33, female 47, death rate 10·16. Illegitimate, male 3.

Total births—male 59, female 54, birth rate, 14·35.

Deaths of infants under one year old—legitimate, male 3, female 4, illegitimate none.

Birth Rate R.G. 14·35

Death Rate R.G. 10·16

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth, none. From other causes of pregnancy, none. No deaths from measles or diarrhoea. One death from Whooping Cough.

Notifiable Disease.

One case of Diphtheria was notified, and admitted into the Isolation Hospital.

Eight cases of Scarlatina were notified and seven were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Eighteen cases of Phthisis were notified, eight males and ten females.

Two cases of Erysipilas were notified, two females.

No cases of Pneumonia were notified.

Two cases of Ophthalmic Neonatorum were notified, both recovered.

PARAGRAPH 5.

- (a) Some nine years ago this area was extended by absorbing a portion of the Chippenham Rural Sanitary district to render the rates more fair; as the Urban district was supplying water and part of the sewerage.
- (b) 1923 was a very healthy year, there was no noteworthy condition prejudicial to health.
- (c) The provisions for Maternity and Child-welfare, Tuberculosis and centres for Venereal disease treatment are arranged for at Trowbridge, by the County Medical Officer.

The Sewerage work at Patterdown is completed, at a cost of about £3,500.

After cases of infection are removed to the Isolation Hospital or treated at home, the rooms are disinfected by the Surveyor with sulphur dioxide.

The water supply was constant throughout the year.

Your Council have purchased fourteen acres of park land with a view to the formation of playing fields, and room for recreation of various kinds. This must be beneficial to all, especially to children; it is now open for use.

Two ambulances are available, one for infectious cases, one for accident and non-infectious cases.

PARAGRAPH 6.

Laboratory Work.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are frequently made. A supply of antitoxin is kept at 11 Market Place, and at the Isolation Hospital for supplying the wants of the medical men in the district free of charge.

Hospitals.

Besides the Workhouse Infirmary, there is an Isolation Hospital, twenty-three beds (not including two Huts giving seven beds), and a Cottage Hospital, sixteen beds.

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Closet Accommodation.

The whole of the closets are being gradually converted into efficient water closets, in the old Borough only four earth closets remain, and in the extended area a considerable number of insanitary middens and earth closets have been converted into water closets.

Food.

The milk supply is good, most of it is imported into the town and is distributed by retailers from house to house. Fifteen dairies registered.

The slaughter houses have been inspected and found to be in a fair condition, but they are for the most part old structures. Six slaughter houses are registered.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Staff 8.

Mr. Adams, the Sanitary Inspector is provided with a clerk.

9.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year—				Urban
(a)	Total	...	...	9
(b)	As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	—

I.—Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection.

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	98
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	—
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	—
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	52

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	18
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—			
	(a) by owners	...	...	—
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	—
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	—

B *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	82
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—			
	(a) by owners	...	...	82
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	—

C. *Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.*

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	—
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	...	—
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	—
(5)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	...	...	—

I have the honour to remain Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM THOMAS BRISCOE, B.A., M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

